

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00786 020550Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6004
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
RUEHIA USCIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0786

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, BA
SUBJECT: NEW ENGLISH NEWSPAPER STUMBLES

1. WEEK OLD ENGLISH DAILY "GULF DAILY NEWS" ALREADY IN HOT WATER WITH GOB OVER MARCH 31 BANNER HEADED STORY "BAHRAIN TO NATIONALIZE BIG NINE". STORY SAID GOB WOULD NATIONALIZE NINE BIG FIRMS IN ORDER ASSURE BETTER FUTURE FOR BAHRAINIS. OF NINE FIRMS NAMED, GOB ALREADY MAJOR OWNER OF FOUR (ALUMINUM BAHRAIN, GULF AIR, CABLE AND WIRELESS, BANK OF BAHRAIN). OTHER FIVE NAMED WERE CHARTERED BANK, NATIONALBANK OF BAHRAIN, BRITISH BAND OF MIDDLE EAST, AND TWO SHIPPING COMPANIES.

2. THESE FIRMS AND OTHERS ARE UNDER INCREASING GOB PRESSURE TO TRAIN AND PROMOTE BAHRAINI BUT "BAHRAINIZATION" AND NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00786 020550Z

"NATIONALIZATION" IS THE WORD FOR THIS PROCESS. AT MARCH 31 RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE LAUNCHING OF GULF DAILY NEWS ITS EDITOR TOOK VERBAL BEATINGS FROM MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND OTHER SENIOR GOB OFFICIALS PRESENT.

3. TWELVE PAGE GULF DAILY NEWS IS POOR IMITATION OF SECOND RATE ENGLISH DAILIES (CHEESECAKE, AND NOT VERY GOOD CHEESECAKE,

ON PAGE 3 OF EVERY ISSUE) WITH VERY LITTLE COVERAGE OF GULF
EVENTS BUT HEAVY COVERAGE OF SPORTS AND GOSSIP FROM U.K.
THIS MAY APPEAL TO ENOUGH U.S. CITIZENS OUT HERE TO MAKE
PAPER PAY BUT UNLIKELY TO ATTRACT MANY OTHER READERS.
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Message Attributes

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